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The author's point of view and the scope of his work are both indicated by the following citation from the preface :

"The new spirit which has been introduced into historical inquiry in recent times consists mainly in this, that the whole continuous life of Humanity is seen to be the object with which it has to deal . . . Though a perfectly rational investigation of this movement requires the combined consideration of all its elements, and a study of the consensus which links the progress of each social factor with that of the others, it is necessary for convenience to examine them separately, without, however, losing sight of their mutual dependence. The principal object of the following pages is to exhibit one line of development which may be traced through the history of the western nations, and which has been scarcely inferior to any other in its effects on the destinies of our race—namely, that by which the slavery of ancient times passed into the modern system of free labour."

After an account of slavery in Greece and Rome, the author sketches very briefly the "transition to serfdom" and the "abolition of serfdom," giving only seventy pages to these topics. This is the least satisfactory part of the work. The author ignores fundamental issues open to controversy, and in many points, as for example in his account of the "Peasant Revolt," his statements are very inadequate if not misleading. Nearly one-half of the book is given to the history of the slave trade and negro slavery and to the account of slavery in Russia and the Mohammedan East. An appendix of twenty pages is mainly devoted to descriptions of slavery among peoples that fall outside of the range of the body of the work. It must be from a previous condition of servitude to an encyclopædia, that the book lacks what every independent and self-respecting monograph should have, an index.

CARLOS C. CLOSSON.

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*Popular Control of the Liquor Traffic.* By E. R. L. GOULD. Baltimore: Press of the Friedenwalt Company, 1895. 12mo. pp. 102.

DR. GOULD has rendered a service to practical temperance reform by publishing in so accessible and readable a shape the main arguments in favor of the Scandinavian system of dealing with the liquor traffic.

Some two years ago the United States Department of Labor sent

Dr. Gould to Sweden and Norway to investigate and report upon the method of controlling the sale of liquor which had been adopted in those countries. The result was the admirable study of the system which was published in 1893 as the Fifth Special Report of the Commissioner of Labor. This report first brought the merits of the system prominently before the American people. The report of the commission appointed by the governor of Massachusetts — based equally upon direct personal investigation — was published in 1894, and marked the beginning of a vigorous agitation by public-spirited citizens in favor of giving the system a fair trial in such cities and towns of that state as might so elect. Through the combined opposition of liquor dealers, whose occupation is threatened, and of extreme prohibitionists, whose prejudice is aroused, the legislature has twice denied the system the bare opportunity of trial which is all that its friends have asked. The campaign of education will, however, be vigorously prosecuted, inertia and prejudice will be overcome, and sooner or later the system will be given an opportunity to prove its merit. It may safely be predicted that this opportunity will prove an entering wedge, and that we shall see another example of the rapid adoption by the various states of an innovation which one of their number shall have proved successful. For the people need only be brought to understand the Scandinavian system and what it has accomplished, in order to welcome its adoption in this country.

While that system does not appeal to extremists, it meets the favor of many active prohibitionists as a practicable immediate step toward checking intemperance. It appeals strongly to the moderate well-disposed persons — the great mass of the community — who wish, at any rate, to see the evils of the saloon system done away with. It has won the support of almost all competent and unbiased students of the problem. In this respect Dr. Gould's experience is typical. He went to Sweden "absolutely without prejudice of any sort;" he came away thoroughly convinced "that the Scandinavian method, as part of a local option system, is the only really practical means of dealing with the liquor evil in this generation."

The essential feature of the system is the removal from the liquor traffic of all the motives of private profit. As long as the livelihood of the saloon-keeper and the bar-tender depends upon keeping up or increasing the sale of liquor, so long will every possible incentive be thrown in the way of the drinker. The saloon will be made attractive

by luxurious fittings, if not by more questionable means; sales to minors, to inebriated persons, to men known to be habitual drunkards, will be made in spite of any system of regulation. If, on the other hand, the business of selling liquor at retail in a given city were in the hands of a company of honorable citizens formed for motives not of profit but of public spirit—a sort of Civic Federation with a more special purpose—if all gains beyond a bare return for capital were turned over to objects of high public utility, but not provided for by public taxation; if the employees of this company were directed to discourage the drinking of the stronger liquors, and promoted partly on that basis; if only pure liquors were sold and those only in limited quantities; if sales were allowed only to adults showing no evidence of over-indulgence; if attractive club-rooms, coffee houses or light-beverage “salons” were established in all parts of the city and run perhaps partly out of the surplus gains of the saloons—it needs no prophet to see that drunkenness would be largely done away with, and that all intemperance would be greatly reduced.

Such a system is no mere Utopia. It is simply the complete carrying out of the method which has been adopted, so far as permanent vested privileges and other obstacles allowed, in many Scandinavian cities. First put in force in somewhat crude form in Gothenburg (whence it is often spoken of as the Gothenburg system), it has been extended to seventy-eight towns in Sweden and fifty-one in Norway, and has become indeed the normal method of the traffic in spirits in such communities of the northern kingdoms as permit any sale of spirituous liquors. Unfortunately, the sale of fermented liquors in these countries has not been brought within the operation of the “company system” and is still comparatively unrestricted. It is therefore not strange that with the spirit trade so heavily manacled, and so large a measure of freedom accorded to fermented beverages, the consumption of the latter should have increased. Such increase is indeed much smaller than in many other countries—the United States among the rest,—still it has been employed by those who oppose the adoption of the system here as an argument against the claim of its success in Scandinavia. To those who understand the facts of the case, it is rather an argument for the adoption of the system in a form which shall include the traffic in all intoxicating liquors. The system has had the additional obstacle that in many places, on account of prior grants to sell liquor for a considerable period, it has been impossible

as yet to bring all of the sales even of distilled liquors within the control of the companies. Nevertheless the success of the system—measured by the crucial test of the decreasing consumption of distilled liquors—has been phenomenal. The annual consumption per inhabitant has been reduced in Sweden—formerly one of the most hard drinking countries in the world—from 14.2 quarts in 1874 to 6.8 quarts in 1892. In Norway from 1876 to 1892 (as the percentage of the sales of other agencies than the companies has fallen from 91.7 to 48.7) the per capita consumption has been reduced from 7.0 quarts to 3.3 quarts. During substantially the same period (1875 to 1892) the consumption has fallen in Great Britain from 6.3 quarts to 5.2, and in Holland from 9.5 to 9.4. It has risen in Germany from 5.7 to 9.5; in France from 4.3 to 8.7; in Belgium from 8.6 to 10.2; in Austria (1887 to 1891) from 3.8 to 5.9; and in the United States (1878 to 1893) from 4.36 to 6.04. Experience emphatically substantiates the merits, already so manifest on grounds even of general reasoning, of the Scandinavian system.

C. C. C.

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*Joint-Metallism. A Plan by which Gold and Silver together, at Ratios always Based on their Relative Market Values, may be made the Metallic Basis of a Sound, Honest, Self-regulating and Permanent Currency, without Frequent Recoinage and without Danger of One Metal Driving out the Other.* By ANSON PHELPS STOKES. Third edition. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1895. 8vo. pp. xxii+221.

MR. STOKES'S book is a plea for a larger use of silver as money, according to a plan of his own which he calls joint-metallism. It is divided into four parts. The first consists of a series of letters written by himself to certain newspapers, and several editorials criticising these letters; the second gives a comparison of the author's plan with bimetallism; the third purports to be a history of the science of money; and the fourth contains a criticism of the theory of credit, together with replies to criticisms of the plan of joint-metallism.

The portion of the book which is important for our present purpose, because it is the only part that is new, is the plan for the enlarged use of silver. In brief it is as follows: Strike silver coins of equal weight with the five-dollar gold piece, to be known as "standards." For all debts